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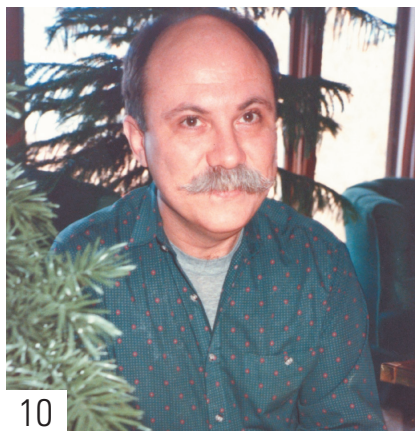
### CORRECTION

The contributor name for the article "In a Heartbeat: The Legality of Marriage" was omitted from Issue 439. Our apologies to the writer, Emma Nelson.

### ON THE COVER

A Summer House in Minneapolis. Photo by Susan Gilmore

Photo courtesy of Steve Johnson



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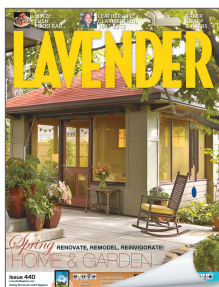
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## FROM THE EDITOR | Andy Lien

EVERY ONCE in a while, I've got to talk business. The business of getting you the goods, the business of what we're up to, and the business of enriching our community both here in Minnesota and on the World Wide Web. At this point in time, Lavender is available via five platforms: print magazine, online magazine (on the web), online magazine (on the iPad), online magazine (on smartphones like DROID or iPhone), and the [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com) website.

As always, Lavender is free.

What may be confusing is what the differences are between the different platforms. Do you want or need to go to multiple places? Do you need to check out the various platforms to get all the information? Is there more than what's in the magazine that you can pick up on stands? The answer is yes.

Being a free publication, our *print* page count relies solely on advertising dollars. It's a business model that works—it's one of the reasons Lavender's been around since 1995. But, because of technology, we can expand the page count of our *online magazine* to accommodate more material. For instance, the last issue—The Wedding Issue—was bulked up to 92 pages in print...but exceeded 120 pages in the online magazine. We use that platform to show additional photos, videos, recipes, and all sorts of pieces that don't fit in the print issue. The same advertisers are in both, but the ads are enhanced and clickable in the online magazine to be able to get to the websites of the companies that want you to know that they're there for you. Even better, the online magazine is viewable *on any computer* by simply going to the top of our website at [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com) and clicking on ONLINE MAGAZINE. Voila. More Lavender.

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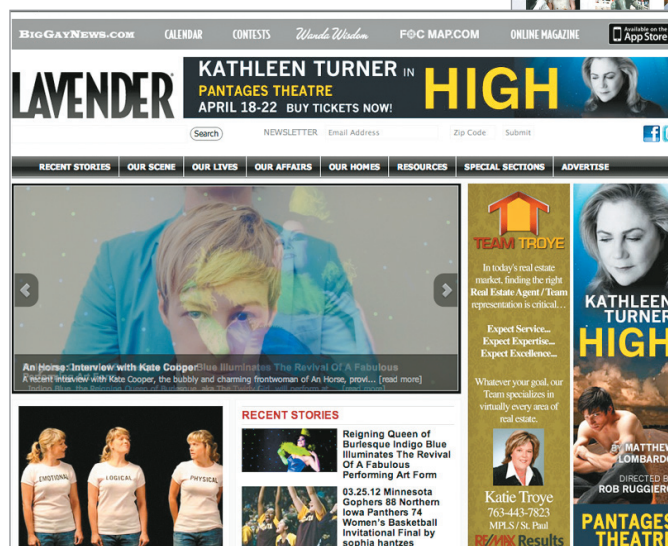
Lastly, the [www.LavenderMagazine.com](http://www.LavenderMagazine.com) website is where it all aggregates—everything from the print issue, the expanded online magazine, and anything we report and post whenever it strikes our fancy. Reviews and recipes and news and videos and everything that is relevant to the community both here and across the globe. It's split up into sections for sorting ease, but also it's clear to see what's been added to the website most recently by looking at the RECENT POSTS area at the top of the content. The photos in the home page slideshow illustrate new stories as they publish and the fresh content is readily apparent.

We've seen great traffic in the recent months. Since we revamped and started using our new website after the New Year, our stats are looking good and people are really starting to engage with Lavender as an online community platform. People are showing ownership of the online calendar by adding events to it and we couldn't be more pleased. But, keep watching. More will be happening in the upcoming weeks and months to make our free content even more relevant and plentiful.

We can't wait.

With thanks,

Andy 





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## Clark Bufkin, 1947-2012 An Appreciation

CLARK BUFKIN, a notable GLBT-community activist, publisher, and former member of the Atons of Minneapolis, passed away suddenly on Jan. 13 in Palm Springs, Calif. Bufkin leaves an enduring and many-faceted legacy to the Twin Cities GLBT community.

Clark Cato Bufkin was born May 29, 1947, in Dallas, Texas, and was raised in Port Royal/Beaufort, S.C. by his mother, Mildred, and by his grandmother, who ran the guest quarters at Paris Island Marine Corps Depot. At age 11 Bufkin told his mother he was gay, and at age 14 he was picking up Marines at Paris Island.

As a young adult Bufkin lived in Savannah, Charleston, Atlanta, Norfolk, New York, and Washington, D.C., working first as a hairdresser and then as a corporate manager of beauty salons in department stores. His corporate position eventually took him to Des Moines, where he moved with his partner Joe Miller. In 1977 the two men moved to Minneapolis.

Once in Minneapolis, Bufkin changed careers and in 1980 became the area's first openly gay real estate agent who actively marketed to gay/lesbian clients. For many years he remained a prominent and successful real estate agent, and eventually he opened his own brokerage.

Much of Bufkin's considerable social and political activism dovetailed with his career as a businessman. In 1981 he co-founded the Northland Business Association (NBA), the area's first "gay chamber of commerce," which was active until 1988. Bufkin later wrote that he co-founded NBA because his clients "would ask me who they could contact for other professional services. Gay and lesbian business people needed to talk to each other, and I found we could help each other." He was also on the board of the National Association of Business Councils, an umbrella organization of local gay business associations.

Building on his Northland Business Association contacts, in 1982 Bufkin was instrumental in starting *Equal Time*, a GLBT newspaper that was published until 1994. Ten years later, he became involved in publishing again: in 1992 he bought *Gaze*, another Twin Cities-based GLBT newspaper, from Brad Theissen. Bufkin transformed the publication into *Gaze Magazine*, which he published until May, 1995. (Before being published in *Lavender Magazine*, your humble columnist had several articles published in *Gaze*.)

While never running for public office him-



Photo courtesy of Steve Johnson

self, Bufkin worked on the election campaign of his friend Brian Coyle, who in 1983 became the first openly gay city council member in Minneapolis. In the words of his former partner, Steve Johnson, "At a time when many in the gay community were either highly closeted or in-your-face radical activists, Clark was often sought out by local political leaders as someone you could have effective dialogue with; he was also frequently quoted by the mainstream press as a spokesperson for the gay/lesbian community, and did numerous television and radio interviews."

Bufkin was a board member of the Minnesota Committee for Gay and Lesbian Rights (MCGLR) in the early 1980s; was the first board chair of the (reorganized) Gay and Lesbian Community Action Council (GLCAC, now OutFront Minnesota) from 1986 to 1989; and was a founding co-chair in 1987 and 1988 of the Twin Cities Gay/Lesbian Pride Committee, the organization known today as Twin Cities Pride. Bufkin was one of the Twin Cities Pride Parade's Grand Marshals in 1992, an honor he shared that year with human-rights activist B.J. Metzger.

From 1981 to 1993, Bufkin was a mem-

ber of the Atons of Minneapolis; he served as the club's president in 1988 and 1989. In 1994 he founded MN Bears, which has since merged with North Country Bears. In 1995 he achieved a trifecta of sorts when he was named Bear of the Year by American Bear Magazine, was awarded the title of International Mr. Daddy Bear at the International Bear Rendezvous in San Francisco, and won a Polar Bear title at a contest in Chicago. He was an active member of All God's Children Metropolitan Community Church in Minneapolis and served on its Board of Directors, as well as being interim pastor for eighteen months in 1992 and 1993.

Bufkin relocated to California in 1995, moving first to San Francisco and later to Palm Springs/Cathedral City. He worked in the mortgage banking industry until his retirement two years ago. He is survived by his older brother Rusty and his nephew Emmitt, former partners Shawn Janes, John Nettleton, Steve Johnson and Jack Gilmer, and by his canine companions. He was preceded in death by his mother in 1981 and by Joe Miller in 2009. □



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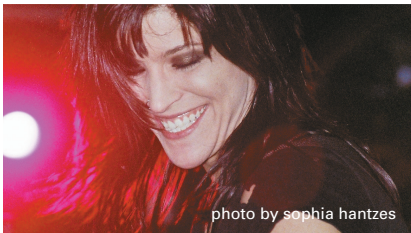


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## Is It Something In The Water?

HAVE MEN declared open season on women? Has a misogynist John Cleese defected to the Republican Party? Are permits required, or is it a right-wing vectored virus?

Rush Limbaugh has received enough ink. But legions are springing up like sown dragon seeds. Chuck Winder (R-Boise), sponsor of an Idaho bill requiring mandatory pre-abortion ultrasounds, spoke up concerning rape victims.

"Rape and incest was used as a reason to oppose this [bill]. I would hope that when a woman goes in to a physician with a rape issue, that physician will indeed ask her about perhaps her marriage, was this pregnancy caused by normal relations in a marriage or was it truly caused by a rape."

Gary Trudeau must be reveling in dialogue descending directly from—if not heaven—the horse's...*mouth* directly to his pen. Take Terry England, the Georgia state representative (R-Auburn). He recounted an anecdote concerning a salt of the earth, chicken-fighting aficionado who promised if "those folks" would stop killing babies, he'd give up his chickens. This was followed by England's farm expe-

riences delivering stillborn pigs and calves; "it breaks our hearts to see those animals not make it."

No, I am not ridiculing his concern for animals. Forty years ago I had to drown a severely damaged newborn kitten—it pains me to this day. But women aren't farm animals. And though England did not literally compare the two in his speech as the press implied (I watched the video twice), he *is* supporting HB 954, making it illegal (for a woman) to obtain an abortion after 20 weeks even if she is known to be carrying a stillborn fetus or one not expected to live to term.

What difference would England say is the quality of thought process—if any—between an oblivious, grazing cow, and a woman who for perhaps four months must wake up, endure the days, and lie awake at night—knowing her infant is dead? Go to the playground with her two-year-old, and hear, "When's it due? Is it a boy or a girl?"

Read James Tiptree Jr.'s "The Screwfly Solution"—men gone mad, joining religious sects, killing women, anticipating Angels arriving to a cleansed Earth. Tiptree's (Alice Sheldon) 1977 black explanation can be no weirder than today's. □

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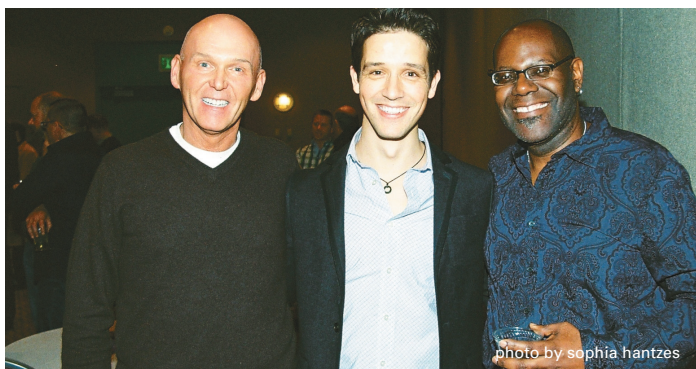
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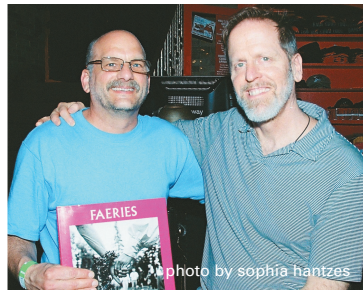


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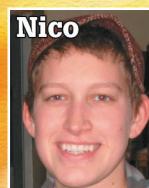
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# ELLIS

## Ellis Continues to Strike a Chord With the GLBT Community and Beyond.

ELLIS IS full of spunky spirit, candid charisma, and an overall enthusiasm for life. So, it should come as no surprise that she has gained a strong following throughout her musical career.

"I grew up in a small town where country music was key. I remember just drinking up the old country music," said Ellis.

Born and raised in Texas, Ellis moved to Minneapolis at the age of 16. From country music grew her folk style, and from small town gift grew nationwide popularity.

Ellis is a folk musician who uses her gift to really connect with the audience members.

"My music always comes from the same place, and trying to figure out this life and understand the meaning of it all... it's a way for me to capture a moment and hold precious something and be able to play it over and over again."

Ellis continually talks about how fascinating it is that we are all living these lives and are connected by the same thing and yet we're all so different.

"We are all alive in these human forms, trying to figure out love, trying to figure out the heart and how it relates to the whole bigger picture as we're on this spinning planet and that's crazy!"

Her seventh album *Right on Time*, was released in 2010 and was called "heartfelt," and "deep," by the critics.

The album begins with title song "Right on Time," a song dedicated to her daughter and what motherhood has brought.

"It's been a really powerful thing having a baby ... it really shifts everything, you start walking around and seeing everyone as someone else's kid. It gives me a softer and sweeter sort of perspective."

In contrast, the album comes to a close with song "You Are Royalty to Me," a memento to Ellis's "granny."

"Being queer, or being LGBT has been really helpful for me to understand that there is a bigger perspective out there. There isn't one way to do things. Love isn't just one way. I ➡

Continued on page 31



Photo by Mike Hnida



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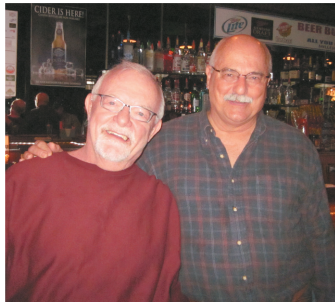
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## SHOWCASE | photos by George Holdgrafer

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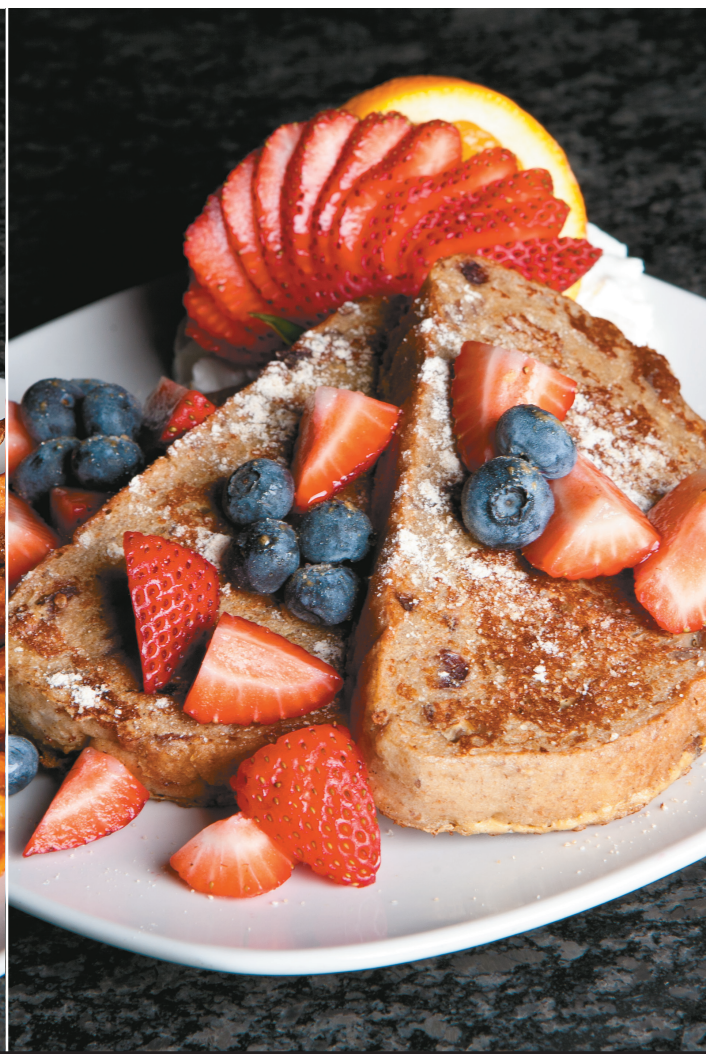

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Tuna, tarragon and egg: what's not to love about this elegant Nicoise sandwich? Cranberry and nut studded French Toast served with as much real maple syrup as you'd like.  
Photos by Mike Hnida

## Lush Food Bar

It's a drizzly morning. The gray exterior walls of Lush match the sky. Inside those walls, a bouyant mix of music plays as neighbors sit at the bar and surrounding tables, sipping coffee, catching up on the morning news and with each other. The bartender knows every face that walks in the door and is quick with a drink or coffee

refill. It could be any other coffee shop in the cities were it not for the beckoning dance floor behind the bar.

Lush continues to twist and turn to be all things for all of their customers, and one of those things is to continue to ramp up the quality of the food they serve (as the website states, this is Lush Food Bar, after all). A couple of months ago, they added Patrick Waller to the kitchen staff. He's running the kitchen after spending time on the line at Bryant Lake Bowl and Café Barquette.

While none of the food is venturing into haute cuisine territory—this is a comfortable neighborhood joint most nights—the new menu, especially the brunch, ➔

Continued on page 22



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Savory buckwheat crepe sprinkled with boozy pineapple plumped golden raisins. Scrambled eggs loaded with black truffles over gril

has been elevated.

The truffle scramble arrives full of pungent black truffles. The small curd scrambled eggs are flecked in an insane amount of truffles for the \$11 price tag, spooned over grilled New French Bakery baguette.

For those who like their breakfast a little sweet there's the French toast. Cranberry pecan bread is thickly sliced, dipped in eggs and milk before a quick fry on the griddle. The result is a pleasantly chewy bread, with the tart pop of the fruits balancing the sweetness while the nuts add texture and a meatiness to the bread. Waller explained that he likes the bread to remain as fat as it is because when he was younger, his mom made French toast out of thin Wonderbread, soaked into oblivious mush. The entire dish is dusted with a raw sugar powder that he

makes in the back and sprinkled with an ample amount of strawberries and blueberries. Served along the side is a pitcher of real maple syrup.

On the more savory side was a buckwheat crepe stuffed with ham and gooey brie cheese served alongside a beautiful, lightly dressed mixed green salad with a poppyseed dressing for \$10. Unfortunately, we found the crepe and ham were a bit dry.

For the lunch side of brunch, we were also served the Nicoise sandwich. On a fresh demi-baguette arrived fat hunks of beautifully rare tuna atop a tarragon aioli that tasted like a creamy, bright lick of spring. The tuna was perfect—simply seasoned with salt and pepper, wonderfully meaty. Thinly sliced hardboiled egg fanned out over the fish made it an extra hearty





er grilled baguette. Photos by Mike Hnida

sandwich for only \$13. With the sandwich we got an order of the sweet potato fries, a fantastic mix of sweet and salty that almost didn't need the mildly chipotle-seasoned mayo sauce on the side.

While my morning visit was non-alcoholic, the spiked coffee drinks looked appealing, especially the Brown Cow cappuccino of crème de cacao, Kahlua, milk and espresso: dessert, happy hour and breakfast – all in one beverage!

With ample amount of comfortable seating, huge windows and patio, this would be an ideal breakfast spot any day of the week. ■

#### Lush Food Bar

990 Central Ave NE, Minneapolis, 55413  
www.lushfoodbar.com



#### Newsy Bits: A few tasty tidbits from around town

The Smack Shack is expanding. Everyone's favorite lobster roll peddling truck is setting up shop in a new home. They've found a brick and mortar store and have begun renovations. No opening date has been announced yet.

The Left Handed Cook will be opening soon in Midtown Global Market. Owned by LA transplants Thomas Kim and Kat Melgaard, Kim comes with a resume that includes time at famed West Coast eateries such as Nobu and Roy's. They'll serve comfort food with an Asian tweak. Look for them in the former La Sierena Gorda space.

Froz Broz have begun searching for funding. One of the ice cream businesses that has me drooling in anticipation has begun the quest to legitimize their business. They're hoping to raise \$35,000 through Indy Go Go to make my ice cream dreams a reality (our – okay – our dreams...). Check them out at FrozBroz.com and enter for one of their weekly pint giveaways – currently the only way we can get to these insanely tasty flavors.

Dining Out for Life is on the horizon; have you made your reservations? On April 26th area restaurants will be donating proceeds to The Aliveness Project. This is my favorite way to give back to the community – eating! Check out <http://www.diningoutforlife.com/Minneapolis/restaurants> to find out who is participating and how much they'll be contributing (more on this one next issue).

Here's a follow-up on our preview of Butcher & the Boar last issue: the food is just as good as we had expected. Opening went well. Be sure to get a reservation and to order the "101" Bourbon sausage, and the roast chicken... and the footlong hot dog. Oh, there are the peanut butter jalapeno poppers that are just so weird they might be genius! Oh, just get it all. I've yet to find a dud.

Lastly, we were very excited to see that Sparks recently opened in the old Bryn Mawr coffee shop. Owned by Jonathan Hunt, who also owns Italian eateries Rinata in Uptown and Al Vento near Nokomis, this tiny shop serves most of their fare straight from the mammoth woodfire oven in the corner. When we asked Hunt about the possibility of writing a profile about his new restaurant, his response was, "We already have enough gay customers," and went on to explain that media attention always ruins restaurants. Please consider this the one and only time I'll mention it. ■

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*Where We're Born.* Lindsay Marcy (left) and Becca Linder (right). Photo by Claire Avitabile

### **Spring Awakening**

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When German playwright Frank Wedekind penned his milestone 1891 drama on adolescent sexuality, he never could have imagined that *Spring Awakening* would also become a groundbreaking Broadway rock musical in 2007. Peter Rothstein now directs that winner of eight Tonys' first local production jointly presented by Theater Latté Da, renowned and beloved for its more classic approach to musicals, in partnership with the University of Minnesota Department of Theatre Arts and Dance.

Music director Denise Prosek says Duncan Sheik's score, more hardcore than any of her previous Latté Da work, is "driven by the rhythm section, especially the guitar. The songs are contemporary, alt-rock, and they live in a groove intended to create an emotional atmosphere rather than a story-driven exploration. The rhythm, harmony, and melody range from hypnotic to driving rock beats. The band consists of drums, bass, guitar, keyboard, and cello. We rehearsed with a real piano for the first couple of weeks and now we're using a keyboard. The difference in the tone with the electronic sound made all the difference in the intention of the piece. It has to live in the instruments of the rock world."

Jack Tillman and Grant Sorenson play gay characters Ernst and Hanschen. (Sorenson actually directed a superb revival of Wedekind's drama for the 2008 Minnesota Fringe Festival.) The set-up is that Ernst struggles with his schoolwork. As Tillman observes "when Hanschen, one of the most intelligent boys in the class, wants to be his friend and helps him with his schoolwork, he's extraordinarily surprised, but relieved and pleased. He feels like he's fitting in, even though most of the other children don't care for Hanschen much. Ernst doesn't care because Hanschen makes him feel special. And because of this, he begins to fall for him, which is something completely foreign and unknown to him. He's never had anyone interested in him before and doesn't know what these feelings mean, especially towards another male. While the kiss that they share shatters Ernst's preconceived notions about his future and what he wants, he's okay with it. He may be scared, but it's better than anything else he's had in the past."

Sorenson points out that "Hanschen uses his intelligence to cover up the insecurity he feels inside. He puts on airs of being above everything—his classmates and teachers—so that he doesn't ever appear weak or vulnerable. So then, when he finally finds a boy who falls for him, like Ernst does, it's this mixture of satisfying victory and 'what do I do now' nervousness."

### **Where We're Born**

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**[www.tctwentypercent.org](http://www.tctwentypercent.org)**

In recent months director Leah Cooper blew us away with great productions of *August: Osage County* at Park Square and *Independence* for Theatre in the Round Players. As one would expect, Cooper's latest project, which is for 20% Theatre Company Twin Cities, will trigger deep discussion about human interrelatedness. *Where We're Born* by Lucy Thurber involves Lilly (Lindsay Marcy), who comes home from her first semester at college to stay with her older cousin, Tony (Anthony Neuman), who raised her. She finds herself attracted to Tony's live-in girlfriend, Franky (Becca Linder), and they begin to have a secret affair. Later we find out that Lilly's first sexual experimentation was with Tony.

One can interpret this as a look inside bisexuality, which is certainly underserved in theater and film. But Cooper, who thinks that in some cases sexual orientation is fairly fixed, also says that in theater and in life "I find it more useful to think of sexuality on a spectrum over time and through circumstance. This play has its characters moving along that spectrum in response to need, fear, hope, and desire."

Cooper says it's about "love, loyalty, and sexuality. The fact that both Lilly's and Franky's love crosses gender is not really treated like bisexuality in the play, nor is it really resolved. The deeper theme of the play is about how someone like Lilly, who comes from a small, working-class town, and is destined to go somewhere with wider possibilities, can push through the boundaries both around her and inside of her to get there. In the play, that push plays out in sexual ways. It's up to the audience to decide what Lilly's and Franky's true sexuality is, and whether their actions are destructive or transformative or both."

### **The Ballad of Genesis and Lady Jaye**

**Lagoon Cinema, 1320 Lagoon Av., Mpls.**

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Asserting that meeting in a basement dungeon can spark true love, director Marie Losier's documentary relates the fast lane lives of industrial rocker, Genesis P-Orridge, and dominatrix, Lady Jaye. Genesis lets us know early on how gratifying housework is when done in bondage mode. There's no outright discussion of his transgender status, though we see he has a penis and has had breast implants. Losier's work exemplifies the weighted notion that gender doesn't really matter, implicitly beating the drum of transgender activism about the wrongness of gender binaries. But what's revealed here will be seen as so extreme to many (including liberals) that some may actually decide to stop heeding that drumbeat. Ironically, ➡



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this film that implicitly celebrates the melting of gender binaries may actually have the opposite effect its creators envisioned.

The film's most controversial point is where the two have cosmetic surgeries to become more like the other — 'to consume each other — you and me just be one — and not be individuals anymore.' One must ask: is this immortal love or codependency gone berserk? At what point does medically transforming one's biological body cross the line into recklessness?

The richest segments relate to P-Orridge's connections with surrealist queer writer, William Burroughs, and Brion Gysin's 'cut up' techniques in service of 'pandrogyny' (e.g. the breast implants and the surgeries can be considered 'cut-ups'). Also worth noting, Losier isn't interested at all in examining the drug-infested sphere of her subjects. Hence, she exemplifies a Dionysian polarity in queer-oriented artistry whose opposite pole may be said to be exhibited by composer Michael Shaieb and playwright Matthew Lombardo who conscientiously give evidence and warning to the queer community about addiction's destructive essence.

### ***The Birthday Party***

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Playwright Harold Pinter's 1958 play was dubbed a 'comedy of menace' and was largely panned by British critics. Soon after its first London production closed it was praised belatedly by Harold Hobson of the very consequential *Sunday Times*. That put it en route to classic status.

The Jungle, which has revived dark plays by Joe Orton and John Guare, steps back into the shadows with *The Birthday Party* which director Joel Sass calls a "pitch-black comedy in which a couple of peculiar gangsters, Goldberg and McCann (Marty Reuben and Tony Pappenfuss) track down Stanley (Stephen Cartmell), who is hiding out in a rooming house straight out of an episode of *Hoarders*, run by Meg and Petey (real-life acting couple, Claudia Wilkens and Richard Ooms). An attractive next-door neighbor drops by and they all throw Stanley a birthday party — except it isn't his birthday."

### ***The Three Sisters***

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Anton Chekhov is generally considered to *not* be a politically-driven playwright, but in retrospect, his major plays, penned in the late 1890s and the first decade of the 20th century do indeed show us a society ripping apart at the seams. The Russian Revolution didn't occur till the second decade, but (as we know) social upheavals like wars are always prefigured by events.

Nightpath Theatre director Maggie Scanlan approaches *The Three Sisters* with that prefiguring sense. She asserts "the Russian Revolution was originally viewed as the ultimate victory of the 'people'—the 90% as it were. The ensuing results: the power being grabbed by the most aggressive and organized segment—the Communists—was the beginning of the end of Russia, culturally and socially. The stranglehold these leaders exercised over the country in the name of equality snuffed out the Russian culture and people. The Russian Revolution is one of the most blatant mistakes of the 20th century. In hindsight, it appears as a collage of atrocities beginning with the Czar's attempt to control strikes and protests through street massacres to the brutal execution of the Czar and his family, the purges of Lenin, the assassination of Trotsky, and the 'Terror' wrought by Stalin." □



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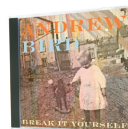


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ARTS & CULTURE



### Andrew Bird *Break it Yourself*

Over the past several albums, Bird has gone from being a solo artist with a cast of sidemen to the leader of a bona fide band. That new vibe fuels *Break it Yourself*, a remarkably accomplished album from a talented artist so deep in his career. The merging of multiple genres is still evident throughout, but there's also a looser vibe to many of the songs, with jazzy shuffles and nods to pop styles of decades past (the '50s and '60s specifically). The loose-limbed playing gives Bird's stories and observations a decidedly fresh vibe compared to the more-stately and formal classical-influence he sported on earlier albums. Even as the material takes on darker shades near the end, Bird and his cohorts' sharp playing keeps it lively.



### Bruce Springsteen *Wrecking Ball*

The Boss still moves well for someone on the verge of cashing in his Social Security checks, and his latest continues the energetic, late-career ride he's been on since the turn of the century. Here, Springsteen uses the current economic and social turmoil to fantastic effect, hearkening back to the late '70s/early '80s "glory days". Sonically, *Wrecking Ball* is the most accomplished of his recent albums, finally finding a merging point between the glorious pomp of the E Street Band and the folk music of more recent albums. Still, the passing of the years is felt throughout the album, such as on the studio version of "Land of Hope and Dreams," when Clarence Clemons unleashes his final E Street sax solo, reminding us of what is now gone.



### Magnetic Fields *Love at the Bottom of the Sea*

Stephin Merritt and company return to Merge Records (the home of their breakout *69 Love Songs*) with a short release full of the off-kilter humor and oddly engaging tunes that have marked the band from the beginning. That's clear from the opening "God Wants Us to Wait," and runs through the opening songs ("Andrew in Drag" and "Your Girlfriend's Face"), all the way keeping their collective tongues in cheek (well, I hope so, since the last is about hiring a hit man to kill a rival after beating his girlfriend). The songs are brief (all under 3 minutes) and while I appreciate tight narratives, a number of these feel as underdeveloped as the back half of a Guided by Voices album. A bit more would go a long way.



### The Men *Open Your Heart*

On album closer "Ex-Dreams," this New York-based quintet brings back the raw specter of 1980s-era Sonic Youth, blazing a blistering path of feedback and too-cool-for-school vocals. It's not that the band apes the music of the past, but it infuses every note and pose with that sense of danger and adventure that is often lost by bands trying to ape a particular moment in history instead of understanding the full continuum of rock music. You can hear nods to moments past (the Stiff Little Fingers riff that opens the album), but all of this – from raging, distortion-laden noise (the epic "Oscillation" for example) to slightly softer territory ("Country Song") – comes with such passion that the whole album is immediate, fresh, and invigorating. □



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grew up thinking love was one way, and then I got a surprise! It turned my whole world upside down," she said.

In many ways, Ellis credits her success to being part of the GLBT community. She started playing shows in women's bookstores across the country when she first started out.

"My music is an expression about me being queer. It's hard to say where I would be without it, but I'm much more openhearted, and much more receptive."

Every musician builds a band of followers. They are the people that you can always count on to be there, to listen to you, and to support you. Being a part of the GLBT community has made Ellis's family that much more diverse.

"There are a lot of different groups that find you ... it takes a village to raise a musician."

One of Ellis's iconic attributes is her comfortability when she is on stage. Ellis said that for the first part of her career she was always nervous on stage, but somewhere along the way she needed to feel excited rather than nervous.

"Being nervous is a wall but being excited is like being a welcome mat saying, 'Hey, come on in to this show ... we are all feeling the same way.'"

One way Ellis makes strong connections with her audience is through storytelling.

"I tell stories often, and my partner can attest to this, and maybe even with a grimace."

But, on stage, Ellis uses her storytelling to give the audience a taste for her and create a more conversational vibe.

"I'm gonna fill in all the details around this point, so you get a clear point of what I'm talking about before I even get there."

"It might take a while to get to the point," said Ellis, "but once I get there the audience is glad I took the time."

Recently, Ellis has been playing more house shows in the Twin Cities area to stay closer to home because she wants to spend more time with her daughter and her family.

But, in many ways, it doesn't matter where Ellis is performing as long as she is getting her music out there.

"Being a musician is very much like a service industry job. I go where I'm called to perform." □



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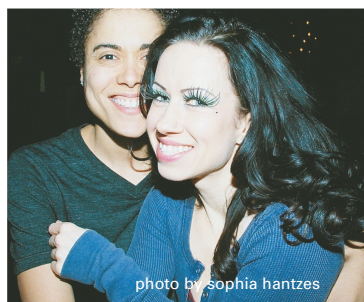
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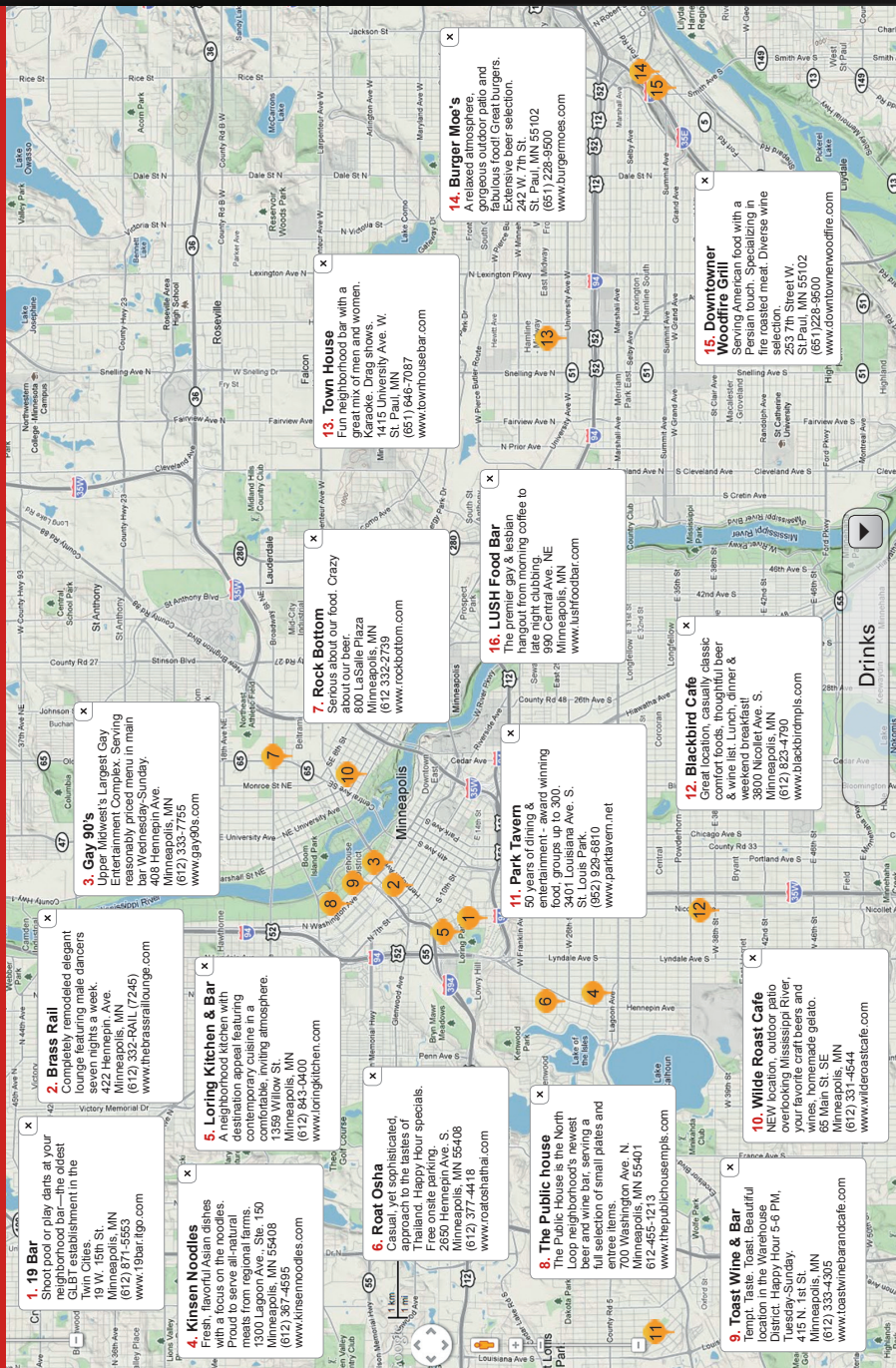


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### Dubai Police Chief Denies Gay People Arrested at Party

*Huffington Post* reports that Dubai's chief of police has denied reports that 30 gay men were arrested at a private party in early March. Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim denied the men were arrested, but reiterated that homosexuality is illegal in Dubai. A gay rights organization says they've collected numerous first-hand accounts of the party and subsequent arrests.

### Anti-Gay Robo-Calls Continue but Romney Wins Illinois

Keen News Service reports

that Illinois voters in the Republican primary election in March received an anti-gay Robocall attacking frontrunner Mitt Romney for his positions on gay civil rights. Romney won against Rick Santorum 47% to 35%.

**Madonna to Oppose Gay Law in Putin Hometown**  
*Bloomberg Businessweek* reports that Madonna announced she will defy a new anti-gay law in St. Petersburg Russia when she's there on tour in August. "I will come to St. Petersburg to speak up for the gay community and to give strength and inspiration to anyone who is or feels oppressed,"

said Madonna. The law bans so-called LGBT "propaganda." She is scheduled to perform in St. Petersburg on Aug 9.

### Indiana Gay License Plates Dumped

*Huffington Post* reports that Indiana's state Bureau of Motor Vehicles has revoked the first-in-the-nation license plate supporting LGBT youth. Republican lawmakers complained the group behind the plate, Indiana Youth Group, was giving them out in exchange for donations. Indiana Youth Group executive director Mary Byrne told the Associated Press the plates were

offered as thank you gifts in exchange for donations, which other groups have been allowed to do.

### Canada Warns Gay Travelers Over Russian Law Banning 'Homosexual Propaganda'

*The Sun* reports that Canada's federal government has issued a travel advisor to gay and lesbian Canadians traveling to the Russian city of St. Petersburg. As a new anti-gay law takes effect in St. Petersburg, the advisory warns "homosexuality is legal, though some still strongly disapprove of it. Canadians are advised to avoid displaying affection in public, as homosexuals can

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be targets of violence." The law bans so-called "homosexual propaganda" and prohibits anything that is seen as "promoting homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality and transsexuality among minors."

### Nepal Launches Asia's First Gay Sports Tournament

*The Telegraph* reports that Nepal is set to hold Asia's first ever sports tournament for LGBT athletes. The two-week Blue Diamond National Sport Competition will feature athletes and sports from across Nepal. Organizer and openly gay legislator Sunil Pant said in a statement, "Renowned and respected Nepali athletes will support as coaches and referees for the program."

### Defendant Found Guilty of Hate Crime in Tyler Clementi Case

Reuters reports that a jury has found former Rutgers University student Dharun Ravi guilty of hate crimes and other charges after using a webcam to broadcast his roommate kissing another man over the internet. The roommate, Tyler Clementi, later killed himself after learning about Ravi's actions. Ravi, 20, faces 10 years in prison and will be sentenced on May 21.

### Head of Iowa School That Hosted Anti-Gay Band Resigns

The Associated Press reports that Mike Cooper, principal of an Iowa high school responsible for allowing a Christian rock band to share their anti-gay, anti-abortion views with students, has resigned. Superintendent Jim Stanton said Cooper's resignation had nothing to do with the band's performance

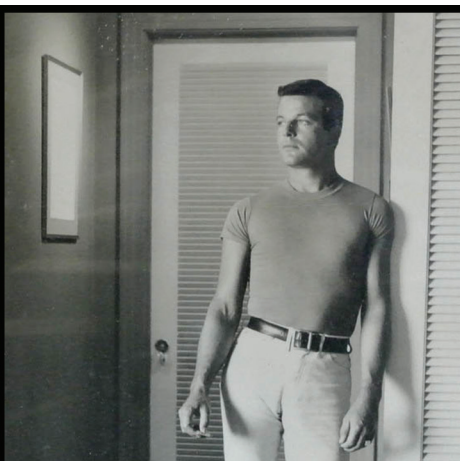
and that it was a plan that had been in the works for the last month.

### Russian Court Refuses to Register Gay Pride Group for Olympics

*The Moscow Times* reports that a regional Russian court has refused to register a gay rights group hoping to create a conference space during the 2014 Winter Olympic games in Sochi. The group, organized by members of the site GayRussia.eu, hoped to provide information on the gay rights movement in Russia to GLBT athletes and visitors, but the court rejected their application. The court said it did so because "its aims contradicted 'public morality' and could result in the destruction of society's notions of good and evil."

### Three Hospitalized as Anti-Gay Crime Wave Hits D.C.

*Huffington Post* reports that two gay men and a transgender woman have become the latest victims in what has been called a "spate of LGBT violence" in Washington D.C.'s Columbia Heights neighborhood. According to the Washington Blade, one gay man was shot inside an IHOP restaurant on March 11. The following day, in separate incidents, another gay man and a transgender woman were brutally beaten on the street. □



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## AGAINST THE AMENDMENT

## Against the Amendment: Charles Nauen

CHARLES NAUEN, a partner at Lockridge Grindal Nauen P.L.L.P., discusses the upcoming vote in November to limit the freedom of same-sex couples in Minnesota from joining in marriage. Last month, his law firm was the first in the state to openly oppose the anti-marriage amendment on the ballot this year.

**Lavender Magazine:** What prompted Lockridge Grindal Nauen to become the first Minnesota law firm to oppose the anti-marriage amendment?

**Charles Nauen:** LGN was founded in 1978, and we have made it our mission over the years to fight for justice and to do what is right. We think opposing the proposed anti-marriage amendment is all about justice and doing the right thing.

**LM:** As you may know, the Hennepin County Bar Association quickly followed Lockridge Grindal Nauen in pledging to op-

pose the anti-marriage amendment. Why do you think other members of the legal community are also pledging to vote no?

**CN:** The legal profession is large and diverse. We support one another, professionally and personally. Within the profession, we work every day in the pursuit of justice. For us, the HCBA, and fellow members of the bar, opposing this amendment is a matter of social justice.

**LM:** What about you, personally, Charlie? What drives you to oppose this amendment?

**CN:** I have been married 26 years to my wife P.J. Pofahl, we have two wonderful daughters, and we have a great life together. I believe that marriage is just as important for gay and lesbian couples, and voting no on this amendment is a step in the right direction to allow all individuals a chance to share in the same happiness that marriage has brought to our family.



Charles Nauen. Photo courtesy of Charles Nauen

In addition, I believe that the Minnesota Constitution should not be used to limit the rights and freedoms of individuals. This amendment doesn't support or encourage the strength or well-being of Minnesotans or their families. □

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A black and white photograph of two men in suits. The man in the foreground is smiling and holding a glass of vodka with ice. The man in the background is also smiling and holding a glass. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights and deep shadows.

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REMODELING | Kathleen Watson

# SPRING INTO HOME RENOVATION & REMODELING PROJECTS!

**SPRING IS** here, and it's the time for change and renewal, especially around the house. Big or small, luxurious or practical, any home project requires careful planning and a lot of creativity. But if thinking about the remodeling process makes you want to hide out indefinitely in that dark unfinished basement, remember that countless other homeowners have successfully turned drab spaces into absolute sanctuaries. The following three projects are great examples of what is possible with a well-laid plan and a great crew of designers and constructors.

What started out as a side yard with too much overgrown vegetation became a summer house fit for kings. Homeowner David Heide (Owner and Designer at David Heide Design Studio) and his partner, Michael Crull, loved their Prairie School style house in St Paul, but they wanted to create a space to enjoy the beautiful weather. They decided to add on and make a summer house, an enclosed structure similar to a porch that stands separate from the main home.



Continued on page 42



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Peaceful

David and Michael can relax and enjoy their gardens and home in the privacy of their summer house. Photo by Susan Gilmore

The couple decided to build the summer house in order to address several different problems. “Our original intent was to enclose the addition with screens, but we realized that we would be on our porch looking at the neighbor’s home. We wanted to redirect the point of view back to our home.” Opting to build an additional structure instead of working with a traditional porch addition allows the pair to socialize and relax while enjoying the beautiful view of their own home. Another benefit of creating the new structure was an added sense of privacy. The pavilion screens the neighbor’s view, which originally looked directly down into David and Michael’s yard.

David and Michael first began by defining the space in the yard where they wanted the structure to be. They discussed the location and size of the summer house in relation to their existing home

and finalized what they wanted the space’s function to be. David then drew up sketches of their ideas and discussed the plans with several contractors in order to check the reality of the pricing. The couple also planned a budget at the beginning of the project, and David notes the importance of “working in reality from start to finish” when it comes to finances. Construction took place over the course of the winter with the contractor working at his own pace. The contractor brought all the wood used in the project to the home already cut and painted. All that needed to be done after the actual construction of the structure was finished was to do one more coat of paint on the trim.

As both a homeowner and a designer, David has quite a bit of advice to offer to homeowners looking to tackle remodeling or construc-





tion projects of any size. First, he suggests to “design content and budget at the same time.” Having an established budget from the get-go will allow you to focus on plans that are financially feasible. If you can’t afford to remodel the whole home, David says to “take things into smaller bites, break things into phases.”

Next, David suggests to “look for the right person to do the job at hand.” Look for someone who has the right credentials for the job you need to have done. David says, “your brother-in-law may come cheap, but he might not be the least ➔

Continued on page 44

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expensive in the long run." A little extra money paid for a job well done will inevitably be worth every extra penny. If you aren't comfortable designing your new spaces, hire design professionals. "You get what you pay for, and in the end, it's ultimately worth it." On the contrary, David warns against hiring overly qualified individuals to do simple tasks. David jokes that "you wouldn't hire Michelangelo to paint your bathroom ceiling."

Finally, David touches on one of the most popular home renovation trends—"green" designs. He notes that "there's nothing greener than good design. Good design transcends trend and style. You can fill your cart with green products, but if it's an ill-thought out project, there's nothing green about it. It's just going to end up in a dumpster in five years."

David and Michael believe that one of the biggest benefits has been "the improved relationship between us and the yard and gardens." The couple can now enjoy their own space and admire the beautiful gardens created by Rocky and Scooter, two people who have worked diligently with Heide for several years. David notes that the space feels like "our sanctuary; it's like our cabin, but it is 20 feet out the back door and not two hours down the road."

For Robert VanDulles and his partner Kevin, a new addition to their 95-year-old home created a master bathroom that was part of both the old and new structures. With help from Castle Building and Remodeling, Inc., Robert and Kevin were able to transform a rough skeleton of sheetrock, insulation, and plumbing into what they now consider "a retreat" in their home.

Robert notes that they wanted to create a complete master bathroom "reasonably economically" with a "modern feel that still fits nicely into a historic home." They began by doing extensive research online and in magazines for styles and trends, and they also toured new condos in the downtown Minneapolis area in order to get a strong sense of what they liked. When they figured out their desired style for the bathroom, they asked friends and family members for suggestions of remodeling companies. Robert recalls that they "interviewed five compa-

The open shower provides ample light for a fresh feel. Photo provided by Castle Building and Remodeling Inc.



nies to compare bids, then we narrowed it down to two and checked references for everyone involved. Because the price was close between the companies, it was more of a personal decision as to who we felt most comfortable with."

The best part about the project for Robert and Kevin was working with Castle Building and Remodeling. Robert recalls that "the crew was professional and had a positive attitude, and Loren Schirber [Castle's Owner and Business Manager] was engaged in the project the whole time." The courtesy and professionalism the couple experienced when working with Castle made them feel very comfortable with the people who were going to be in their home.

The project didn't go perfectly, however, due to issues with faulty hardware. Robert and Kevin purchased the fixtures and hardware several years in advance, and they were surprised to find that their purchases didn't stand the test of time. They ended up redesigning the bathroom and using all new materials—a decision that truly paid off. Robert's biggest tip is to avoid purchasing any materials until you know with certainty that you have a final design.

Robert also suggests that homeowners ask a ton of questions, especially when it comes to choosing a company to work with. "Check the references of everyone, including subcontractors. Don't be afraid to speak up and ask questions—you want to feel safe and secure in your home!"

Not all projects have to be huge renovations—Tom Thorson wanted to turn his unfinished walk-out basement space into a loft-style studio for his landscape architecture business. He needed a place to paint, draw, and spread out his work in, and the lower level of his home was absolutely ideal. Tom decided to go for an "industrial loft" feel by keeping the ceiling ducts and pipes exposed, as well as not covering up the concrete floor. Along with a studio area, the basement holds a lounge area complete with a cozy fireplace.

Tom designed the floor plan himself, but he went straight to Vince Cronje and Jeff Ertl at Pro Home Renovating. "I went right to them. They get the job done the way I want it done. Aesthetics are important to them." The space ➡

Continued on page 46

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didn't need to be overly finished; it needed to be functional. Tom adds that the space "is perfect for my needs."

Tom has a few suggestions for people looking to re-envision a space like he did with his basement. First, he suggests people "speak to designers if you aren't comfortable doing it yourself. That is money well spent because it will save you tons of money on problems and errors." Also, it's best to plan out options on paper first. Having succinct plans makes initial estimate discussions with contractors easier. He also warns that "it's not always the lowest cost you receive that you should go with." Instead, Tom suggests that homeowners "get with a contractor that understands exactly what you want to do."

Another idea that Tom suggests is to think about how a space needs to change in order to make it functional. "People don't use a space in their homes because it's not up to the level of the rest of the house, but there are things you can do to make a space functional." One big mistake that people make is assuming that each area of the home has to be up to the same level of finished perfection as the rest of the house. Tom's loft-style basement is a perfect example of how to renovate in order to make the most out of an otherwise unusable space.

Pro Home Renovating knew exactly what Tom wanted to achieve with his project, and Tom is more pleased with the results than he thought was possible. "I didn't want it to be a pretty space—I'd say it's handsome, comfortable, and practical. It's a good way of dealing with a space that doesn't have to have a higher level of finish."

Whether you're looking to spruce up an old space or build something completely new, the main thing is to plan ahead. Think about



Tom's industrial loft style studio is functional and fashionable. Photo provided by Pro Home Remodeling

Comfort

your budget and your goals, and find a contracting company that understands your project and is able to see it through. With a little bit of creativity and communication, your home can become your personal paradise you may never want to leave. ■

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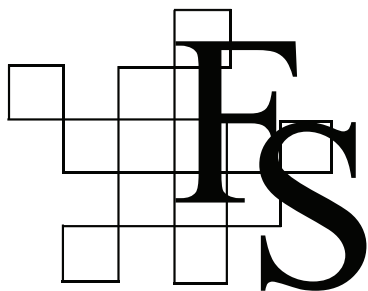
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# BAKER KNAPP & TUBBS



Stylish

Two tiers of pricing, many options. Examples of the breadth of variety at Baker Knapp & Tubbs include The Milling Road Collection Chaise Lounge starting at \$2954 (above), the Simply Baker Track Arm Sofa starting at \$3999 in the stock fabric (opposite), and the Neue Sofa with sloped arms designed by award-winning Laura Kirar starting at \$10,140 (p. 50). All three sofas are on the showroom floor in higher-priced leather versions. Photos courtesy of Baker Knapp & Tubbs

**IT USED** to be that the best furniture was kept from the general public, available only to interior designers and their wealthy clients. The rest of us in the lower furniture caste have unfortunately grown accustomed to pieces that are made cheaply, with materials that can't stand the test of time. We are actually impressed if our desks last more than ten or fifteen years. In fact, we have grown so used to disposable furniture that most people share the depressing belief that in order to find well-built, handsomely finished furniture, you have to go to an antique store.

Not to criticize antiquing—shopping for vintage furniture certainly has its appeal, and it's the green way to go. But it can be very,

very difficult to design an entire room that way...at least within a reasonable timeframe. And unfortunately for those who lusted over interlocking joinery, hand-tied springs and meticulous tailoring, yet couldn't afford to work with a high-end interior designer, there was no other way.

All of that has now changed, according to Tom Mohnkern at Baker Knapp & Tubbs. Mohnkern, along with his associate Penny Amrani and Showroom Manager Kevin Walter, have opened their doors at 275 Market Street in Minneapolis to the general public. "We're a high-end furniture showroom, but we've remodeled our structure a little bit. We used to be only a wholesale business to architects and



designers, and...since there are no dealers in the area like Gabberts and Macy's, we're getting those end-user clients." Offering transitional pieces (that exquisitely refined midpoint between traditional and modern) Baker Knapp & Tubbs focuses primarily on the Baker line, but also includes pieces from Hancock and Moore, Jessica Charles, Councill, Stickley and McGuire.

Each of these brands is known for




its beauty and versatility, but also for its ability to last. "Really what Baker is built on is that you're buying quality furniture that you're going to have for the rest of your life," Mohnkern begins. "You may get sick of the fabric that it's in and get it recovered, but you really only need to buy a sofa once." Most of these pieces are made in the United States, although some are made in Europe and Indonesia. He adds, "We're proud of what we do. We're built on a history of craftsmanship—old school craftsmanship."

For a sofa that lasts a lifetime, some people are willing to pay a small fortune. However, it's important to the staff at Baker Knapp & Tubbs that some of their pieces be more accessible in price point as well as store policy. "Baker is not just high-end anymore," Mohnkern states. "Our sofas start at \$3,995. It's called Simply Baker, and it's a great program...it was kind of designed for the young consumer that can't afford the \$15,000 sofas, but some day they will." For those who want an even better deal, Baker Knapp & Tubbs offers a 60% discount on floor samples.

Perusing the website at [www.bakerfurniture.com](http://www.bakerfurniture.com) allows a customer to peruse shapes and textiles, as well as learn more about Baker's construction standards. However, the best way to start designing is to visit the showroom and speak to the staff. "Between the three of us, we have over 40 years of experi- ➔

Continued on page 50




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Continued from page 49



ence in furniture,” Mohnkern declares. Additionally, Mohnkern, Amrani and Walter are happy to offer their expertise in picking which pieces to splurge on, and which ones can help you stretch your budget.

To be able to offer the best and most specific guidance possible from inside the store, Mohnkern recommends that customers bring in a picture of their room, and plans if you’re working with an architect. “The more information we have, the more helpful we can be,” he explains. Mohnkern also admits that there are times when an interior designer is definitely needed. And if that’s the case, the staff at Baker Knapp & Tubbs can connect you with the right resources to help you finish your project.

If anything ever does happen to your furniture, the store also makes getting it taken care of much easier than the typical furniture warranty experience one gets from the big box stores. Mohnkern concludes, “We stand behind our product. We make a great product. We are the clients’ biggest advocates. If there’s a problem, we definitely stand behind it. Sometimes there’s some red tape to deal with, but we do it.”

Located inside International Market Square, Suite 335, Baker Knapp & Tubbs is not the only showroom there that is open to the general public. However, the building is still oddly quiet and sparsely populated, perhaps due to the fact that it still carries the reputation, and the ambiance, of being interior designer-only. However, if you’re in the market for a piece of furniture that you will enjoy growing old with, it’s a great time to shop before the showroom gets busier. Additionally, if you’re shopping at International Market Square and not sure whether a particular showroom is open to the public, just check the sign just outside the door. And for more information about Baker Knapp & Tubbs, call the showroom at 612-341-2906. □





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Recycled glass helps carry a watery, seaside appeal in this bathroom. Photos courtesy of Castle Building & Remodeling, Inc.

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## Green Behind the Glass A Modern Twist on a Growing Trend

In the world of gardening, trends come and go, and sometimes the most fabulous trends become, well, trendy again. This is definitely the case with terrariums—the new “in thing” for indoor spaces.

These modern day miniature gardens under glass, just like their 1970's counterparts, can be just as elaborate and complex as you want to make them. Here are a few tips we have learned along the way.

The first step is to select a glass vessel to house your creation. Choose any glass container without drainage. It could be anything from repurposed old apothecary jars, decanters, or bottles, to modern vases or containers—even an unused aquarium would fit the bill. Selecting the glass container is part of the fun. Unless you are a master with chopsticks, or have extremely tiny hands, a larger opening or removable lid will make the

process a lot easier. Even though building a ship in a bottle is possible, a wide-mouthed opening will allow easy access for building, editing, and caring for your creation.

Because terrariums do not have drainage holes, spread a 1-3 inch layer of small pebbles or stones on the bottom of the container so water can drain from the soil above. Add a layer of horticultural charcoal on top of the pebbles to help filter the water and air within the terrarium as organic matter decomposes. Add a good, well-drained potting soil, and you are ready to plant.

Terrariums are miniature ecosystems requiring all the same things that a full sized garden would need, but on a much smaller scale: light, moisture, nutrition, and editing. The key is to choose plants with similar light, moisture, and humidity needs. For instance, a terrarium with a smaller opening or remov-

able lid would be a perfect environment for high humidity loving ferns, club mosses, Venus fly traps, baby tears, creeping fig, pilea, miniature begonias, Swedish ivy and tiny bromeliads. These are just some of the plants that could coexist in your terrarium. Air plants (*epiphytes*), like Tillandsias and interesting mosses, will further complement this mix of plants. You can also create dryer ecosystems in more open containers where moisture cannot collect by choosing a more drought-tolerant mix of succulents like aloe, agave, sedum, miniature pencil cactus, echiveria, etc. With whatever plant group you choose, make sure their needs are compatible. Combine plants with various heights, forms, textures, and colors for best visual results. Accessorize with stones, shells, sticks, and pods to create your own custom landscape.

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Photo Courtesy of Scott Endres

In a more closed terrarium with a smaller or removable lid, very little water is needed. Moisture will collect on the sides of the glass and drip back into the terrarium while adding to the high humidity. When the plants need watering, do so gently, being careful not to add too much. Remember, there is no drainage, so usually err on the side of too little versus too much water. The more open the container, the more you will need to water. Once an equilibrium is reached, moisture in the terrariums will be nearly self-sustaining.

Just like any garden, a little editing and care will ensure a healthy environment for all the plants in the terrarium. Fertilize sparingly to discourage excessive growth. Don't be afraid to snip back plants that are growing too fast. There is a bully on every playground, even in the plant world, so it will be your job to look out and protect the less vigorous plants from being consumed by the others.

Sounds pretty easy, doesn't it? It might be time to let a terrarium provide a big green thumb imprint in your life. Taking little room, their foot print is as tiny as the self-sustaining ecosystem within their clear walls. Be inspired by some of the terrariums we put together at the garden center, and we will help you put together your own. It is what we do. How long will the terrarium craze last? Who knows, but we suspect quite a while, whether these gardens behind glass remain in vogue or not. ◻

Scott Endres is co-owner of Tangletown Gardens and Tangletown's Wise Acre Eatery on 54th and Nicollet in South Minneapolis.



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# Cadillac SRX



Photos by Randy Stern.

A LONG time ago, the tag line “Standard of the World” stood for something special.

Over 100 years ago, the Cadillac Motor Car Company earned the right to call itself a “standard” above all else by advancing the automobile on several fronts. In 1908, Cadillac won the Royal Automobile Club’s Dewar Trophy for demonstrating vehicle reliability with extensive use of interchangeable parts. Cadillac engineers disassembled one of their cars, built it back up again and drove off in it. Back in 1908, that was considered revolu-

tionary. A second Dewar Award was earned in 1912 for Cadillac’s revolutionary key-initiated electric starting system.

These award-winning innovations are things we take for granted today. By giving the automobile a much-needed boost at a time when not a lot of people even considered one as part of their lives, we could appreciate Cadillac’s right to proclaim itself as the “Standard of the World” a century ago.

For decades, Cadillac was the best selling luxury car in the world. It retained its lead-

ership by being audacious in every way. We recognize the fins of the 1959 Cadillac – and the staggering detail of every inch of that model. There had to be a point where Cadillac’s claim of being “Standard of the World” would no longer become relevant.

That moment came in the 1970s. Gas crisis, a recession and a change in consumer tastes became telltale signs that Cadillac’s relevance would begin to wane. All of the sudden, a generation of well-to-do consumers began to embrace more efficient ➔



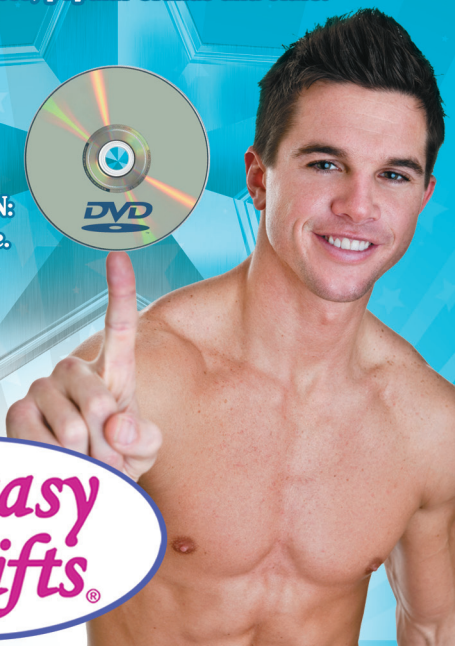
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Photos by Randy Stern.

and smaller luxury status symbols. Mercedes-Benz took advantage of this turn in the luxury car field as the Sedan de Ville was replaced by the S-Class.

Since then, General Motors has been soul searching to find a way to make Cadillac relevant once again. It began taking steps towards developing products that challenged perceptions of the brand. Not everything was a winner, but you could tell how much effort Cadillac was putting forth to not only become relevant again – but to become a global player in the luxury car market.

Since 2010, the SRX sat right smack in the middle of an evolving lineup for Cadillac. The brand's signature Art&Science design language was translated elegantly onto GM's global Theta platform. As pretty and luxurious as the SRX was, their engines bore the biggest complaints. While automo-

tive journalists felt the 3.0litre V6 was too weak for this heavy five-passenger crossover, consumers weren't convinced that the Saab supplied 2.8litre turbocharged V6 was the way to go. Cadillac had to do something to instill consumer confidence in its lavishly designed two-row crossover.

To resolve this problem, Cadillac dropped the familiar 3.6litre High Feature V6 under the SRX's hood. This direct-injected engine sports 308 horsepower – more than any of the engines offered from the previous model years. It sounds like they resolved the problem in performance by creating a much better proposition for the consumer. But, was this the right thing to do?

Consider this fact: In February of 2012, SRX sales accounted for 43.3% of all Cadillac sales. It is currently the best selling product in the Cadillac lineup, a contrast to a year

ago when the CTS held the same title for the brand. This could be considered a success, if the SRX was good enough to meet the lofty title of "Standard of the World." There is only one way to find out: A cross-examination of the SRX.

This crossover certainly has the look of a Cadillac. The Art&Science design combined the best of the brand's heritage with contemporary lines and themes. Some might say that for the past decade Cadillacs have become folded over, soulless devices. There are some angles that appear that way, but look closely...there are some "fin affects" in the front and in the back. The taillights took me back to 1969. The rear C-pillar windows have angles reminiscent of a Sedan de Ville, circa 1964. However, the front end and the 20-inch alloy wheels are indeed modern touches.





Photos by Randy Stern.

Inside continues the Art&Science theme. Cadillac thought it was great to have circular pods for its dials and a rise-up center screen for the center stack readouts. It still is, and the treatment is rather nice. The dials are black-on-white with an LCD screen in the middle of the speedometer pod. This is where the vehicle information readouts live – all beginning with a Crest-and-Wreath to welcome you.

The center stack has GM's familiar field of buttons and knobs with the screen partially tucked away when you're in drive or not using the navigation system. The screen does rise when you put the SRX in reverse with a camera showing you what's directly behind you. If you do use the navigation screen, it is the latest touch model employed across all GM lines.

The SRX Premium tester offered practically everything imaginable short of the kitchen sink. You only get two rows of seating in the SRX – the front row seats are taut, but can be adjusted to compensate plenty of bodies behind the dashboard. Rear seat passengers get plenty of headroom and the seat backs recline. Yet, rear legroom may be sufficient for average sized people, so choose whoever sits where wisely when going on a long journey. Perforated leather drapes both rows of seating, while various leather and soft touch materials and decent carpeting cover the remaining parts of the cabin. For the most part, these seats could use some additional cushion for support and comfort.

Cargo space is immense enough to fit a kitchen sink and a faucet. In reality, it will pack a week's vacation for four somewhere worth driving to. You can install the cargo fence along a u-shaped track to keep the sink and its components from crashing through the power-operated lift-gate. The fence is attached to the hatch that opens onto the sub-floor of the cargo hold and is installed into

sliding pods on the track.

Another blast from the past is the Bose audio system. Though better than any Bose-powered system in previous Cadillacs, its eight speakers filter a beautiful noise full of AM, FM and XM radio or various options of sound ranging from CDs to your iPod. This SRX came with the only available option on the Premium model – a pair of rear seat video screens with your own controls and headsets. To add a more dramatic affect to your SRX, there is the Ultraview Sunroof that gives you unlimited view of the sky above for all passengers to enjoy. Keep in mind that only the front part of the roof opens up to let the atmosphere enter from above.

About that 3.6litre V6 – it is quite good. The job of hauling about 4,400 pounds takes all 308 horses to master. In comparison to GM's three-row crossovers (the Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia and Buick Enclave), the SRX is 400 pounds lighter with 20 more horsepower to work with. Strangely enough, the SRX's engine lost 5 pounds-feet of torque in the process. Having driven the three-row crossovers in the past, I found this engine to work a bit better in the SRX. Yet, this crossover could use some better sound deadening as the engine made its presence known under full throttle. The V6 is connected to a six-speed automatic with a fantastic all-wheel drive system. Shifts were smooth for the most part.

Incidentally, the V6 can run on both regular petrol and E85 ethanol. If you're concerned about the rising cost of fuel this year, filling the tank of the SRX with E85 would be a good option for you.

When driving the SRX, you do feel the size of this crossover – more the weight, width and height than the length. It shows in the handling as it ranges from smooth to a bit light on the curves. There is some slight roll, but not pronounced. If you do put

the SRX in the bends, the best approach is to simply take it easy. The 20-inch Michelin Latitude tires provide nice grip though.

The SRX is a smooth riding crossover overall. However, road imperfections can be felt, but not enough to cause major alarm inside the SRX. Steering action is reasonable with a decent turning radius, but there are occasions when there is a numb feeling from the wheel itself. Braking ranged from mushy with long stops to surer action even at moderate to short stops.

The SRX did yield a better result in one area: Fuel consumption. Any time I would touch GM's 3.6litre V6, I ended up in the 17-18 MPG range. Granted, these are from vehicles that are 400 pounds heavier with 20 less horsepower. In the SRX, I achieved a fuel consumption average of 19.8 MPG. According to the sticker – this is where the SRX is supposed to be.

At just over \$51,000, this fully loaded Cadillac is a decent buy. You can get an SRX with less stuff in it. The luxury crossover starts at over \$35,000, but if you get greedy with the trim levels and options, you will head towards the top of the range – such as this Premium grade tester.

Does the SRX fulfill the brand's promise of being the "Standard of the World?" If the measuring stick is the 556 horsepower CTS-V, achieving that tag line rests on the upcoming ATS and XTS, based on the mission and upcoming technology both will employ. The SRX is simply a good two-row luxury crossover that attains the best the Cadillac brand offers today.

The SRX is not exactly the "Standard of the World." It is pretty close to being that. ■

Randy Stern is an automotive writer from Robbinsdale, Minnesota. He can be followed at Victory & Reseda – <http://www.randystern.net>.





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# The Ripple Effect

CALL ME naïve, but I believe in the power of story, particularly one's own story. Personal stories can move us in completely unexpected ways. It's for this reason that when I meet someone new, I like to ask, "Please tell me your story." What I've heard in response has never bored me.

I practice what I'm preaching here. Recently, the Board of Directors for the Hennepin County Bar Association had before it a resolution that I helped write. The resolution called upon all Hennepin County lawyers—8000 attorneys strong, the 10th largest bar association in the country—to "take affirmative action" to defeat the anti-marriage amendment to Minnesota's Constitution that will be voted on in November.

I was one of three people invited to speak in support of the resolution. "I used to be a boy," I started. "Now, I'm a girl."

I paused and looked at thirty faces looking at me. They still seemed interested. And why not? After all, it's not every day that you hear someone talk about flipping genders.

I continued. "When I was male, I was a first-class citizen. I could legally marry the love of my life, Lydia. Now that I'm a woman attracted to other women, I've become a second-class citizen. If by some miracle Lydia came back to me, ironically, we wouldn't be able to marry. Under Minnesota law, I'm not good enough to marry my soul mate."

I explained that nothing about me had changed other than my outward appearance. I'm still the same good person I was before

I transitioned to a woman. In fact, in many ways, as a woman, I'm a better, healthier person than I ever was as a man. I asked, "Why is it that once I found my authentic self, I lost my rights?"

I watched as people nodded. They understood.

Many Board of Directors members were already against the anti-marriage amendment, so it may be that my words were merely icing on the cake. In the end, not only did the Board think the resolution was a good idea, they went beyond it and joined Minnesotans United for All Families, the umbrella organization that's leading the fight against the anti-marriage amendment.

A couple days later, I was at a social event for the Bar Association when a man introduced himself. Sam was at the Board of Directors meeting and had heard my "second-class citizen" speech. "It made me think," he said. "I never considered that someone could lose rights simply because they were honest about who they are."

Sam related that his wife was against gay people marrying. "She's way more conservative than me," he confided. However, after hearing me speak, Sam went home and told his wife about me and how I'm a once-married-man-now-unable-to-marry-woman.

My story apparently resonated with Mrs. Sam.

"After I told her about you and how you'd be unable to remarry Lydia, my wife suddenly changed her mind about the anti-marriage

amendment," Sam said. "Her words were, 'That's not right.' Now, she wants the amendment defeated."

I couldn't keep from smiling. It felt good to think something I said had rippled across the pond to positively change someone's opinions. That my words had helped turn black to white.

In the larger picture, it's not going to be that easy. There are powerful, entrenched forces bearing down in support of the anti-marriage amendment, and we've barely experienced the media ads that those who hate us will put forth. We run the risk that other Mrs. Sams will tune out, rather than tune into, our common humanity.

Still, don't underestimate the power of our personal stories. Every LGBTQ person should talk about whom they love and what they want as human beings. I don't care which alphabet letter you are—gay or lesbian, bisexual or transgender or queer—just tell your neighbors, coworkers, and that somewhat cold relative, about how you want the ability to marry just like plain old straight folks. "I'm in love with Susie. We simply want what every straight person takes for granted—the ability to say 'I do,' and then make our life together in a house with a white picket fence and a neurotic, yappy dog running around in the front yard."

That kind of story ripples across the pond, too. If all of us speak up, the collective ripple could become a tsunami. I'm convinced of it.

And so, please, *tell them your story.* ■



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OUR VOICES



DATELAND | Jennifer Parelo

## Republicans Are No Fun and They Don't Like Sex

IT'S SUNDAY. My girlfriend and I woke up with the determination to turn over a new leaf! We were going to go to church, help old folks cross the street and feed hungry kids. But then we turned on the Sunday morning political shows and changed our minds. There we were met with a wall of blathering Republican sociopaths who want to put the gays in prison (but not the fun type of prison where we get to have 1950's campy jailhouse movie sex) and poke us with sticks.

So, instead of making the world a better place to live, we drank beer before noon, had gay sex and then smoked a medicinal leafy substance—all to upset our Republican overlords.

I'm not a very political person, mainly because I'm not a very serious person. I do not like to live in reality. I like the type of nature videos that show a beagle adopting a baby alligator. I turn it off before the baby alligator grows up and eats his adoptive mother. It's the same with politics. I like reading about the loveable traits about politicians—Churchill's failure as a farmer because he made the mistake of naming all his pigs and cows and, thus, couldn't slaughter them (and not his alarmingly racist views); Harry Truman's fondness for Old Fashions and children (and not his blithe attitude toward nuking Japan); Clinton's eternal spunk (and not his Oval Office spunk....I know, that's disgusting. Sorry.). I even get a bit weepy when I'd see that moron George Bush cuddling Barney the dog.

But it's nearly impossible to mine one loveable gem from this desiccated field of Republican lowlives. They remind me of everyone's least favorite parents when we were in high school. The super uncool and judgmental adults who will not only call your parents if they catch you drinking in their basement, but will also call the cops

and your school's lady dean, who is always a spinster and really mad that you're having any fun.

They're the types who are dementedly involved in their kids' lives, volunteering to chaperone the prom, hovering over punch-based parties at their homes, and meeting weekly with teachers to ensure that their kids' get their share of extra-credit work. Inevitably, their kids turn into big freaks once they are let off their leash and sent to college. They're the first ones to OD, get pregnant, and join a campus cult.

I was never much of a rebel in high school. The only time I misbehaved was when I'd rub up against uptight, self-righteous adults who thought I was a bad influence just because I refused to dress in pastels. They made me want to be bad and drag their kids down with me. I'd convince them to shoplift, drink Boone's Farm Wine Coolers, and sleep with one of the bad boys who worked at the service station.

And I'm reacting the same way, now. Every time I see Rick Santorum's pinched face, I want to get an abortion. I've never been pregnant and I've never wanted to be, but every time I see that imbecile's weak chin quiver, I want to call my college boyfriend, ply him with a gin-based drink, and make him get me pregnant, just so I can follow it up with an abortion. Oh, and I really want to sleep with Romney's wife, because a.) she's hot; and b.) how dare the Mormons tell me that I can't have gay sex. I'll show them by shtupping the top Mormon lady in all the land!

As for all you misguided kids considering voting Republican, don't do it! Democrats believe that sex between consenting adults is fun and healthy, and that marijuana should be legalized. So give into peer pressure and join the Democratic fun bunch. □



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Wanda Wisdom

# Household Hints from Wandavise

Extra bras and fake hair lying around? Just to prove she's good in more than one room of the house, Wanda shares some household tips and tricks perfect for drag queens and ladies with far too much fashion sense for their own good.

**Pantyhose:** Tomato plants extra leggy and untamed by wire cages? Simply snip up some old hose (not to be confused with old hos) and tie those leggy arms to cages or posts. Old hose also make for great casual headbands and reusable tea bags. Just make sure to wash them before steeping.

**Bras:** Love polishing your floor but hate roughing up your youthful knees? Snip old over-the-shoulder boulder holders in half and use the straps or add a strap of elastic to each cup and presto: homemade knee pads! Old bras also make for great ear muffs... as long as you're not actually going to be seen by other human beings while wearing them.

**Size 14 heels:** Transform those old boat anchors into decorative planters. Poke holes in the soles for proper drainage, then add fresh potting soil and your favorite flowering flora. Have some steps in your backyard? Put one clodhopper per step for some drag queen curb appeal!

**Wigs:** Got some old weave lying around? Cut wigs, weaves and/or hairpieces into 4" strands. Set the sassy clumps outside in springtime for our fine-feathered friends. Why shouldn't their nests be as fabulous as ours? Just make sure to wash the wigs beforehand. You don't want to be responsible for an epidemic of chickadees overcome by Rave #3 fumes.

**Spirit Gum:** Maybe the channel knob falls off your RCA console TVA and you're fresh out of super glue. Simply dab a few drops of spirit gum on the back and voila! Like new. At least new for an old RCA console. Also handy for re-affixing doodads to thingamabobs.



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### Dear Ms. Behavior:

Last fall, my friend Joe introduced me to Sherry on a lesbian fix-up. He claimed Sherry was a fantastic stylish professional with a great sense of humor. We went out on several dates: at first she seemed exactly as he described her, although soon she grew a little nervous and clingy. Within the month Sherry had lost her job and apartment during some kind of rage attack, and also lost any semblance of sanity. When I broke it off with her, she seemed unwilling to accept reality and kept calling, writing, sending gifts, and dropping by. It was traumatic for me, like being stalked and finally, I got tough with her: "Sherry, you're not for me. Sorry things are rough, but I don't want to date anymore. Don't call or write. I do not want to be in contact with you ever again." Luckily, that did the trick.

Anyway, the problem is my friend Joe: it turns out he's known Sherry for years and has lived through these meltdowns of hers — freaking out, losing jobs, massive insecurities, verging on delusions — but he neglected to warn me. Last night I saw him at a party. When I mentioned the experience, he just shrugged and said, "Guess she wasn't for you." I know I should just let it go and write it off as a singular psycho lesbian dating experience, but I feel so mad at his response. I've also found out that he's now planning to set her up with Sarah, a casual friend of mine. Should I warn Sarah?

— WARNING OR NOT

### Dear Warning or Not:

It sounds like Sherry needs a therapist (or some medication) a lot more than she needs a girlfriend. With the proper help, she may feel a lot better and not act so, well, nutty.

You can warn Sarah about your own experience with Sherry without being unkind. But if Sarah is one of those gentle-hearted boundary-free lesbians who ache to fulfill all of someone's wacky needs, your cautionary tale won't help. Haven't you met the type? — professional dog groomer by day, amateur crisis counselor/psychodrama instructor by night, willing to act as caretaker, lover, career counselor, real estate agent, mommy, and psychiatrist?

Joe may continue to try to foist Sherry onto unsuspecting lesbians because it lightens his burden; he may be the beneficiary of Sherry's meltdowns when she's single. But at this point, it's no longer your problem. Just consider his judgment tainted (and politely decline any further matchmaking assistance).

### Dear Ms. Behavior:

I'm a 23-year-old man. My longest relationship was with my childhood sweetheart, a girl, which started in the 7th grade and continued through college. I'm still close to Betsy's parents, although Betsy refuses to speak to me. She doesn't accept that I'm gay — she's more religious than her parents and says it's an "abomination" and is also pissed

because I was supposed to marry her. She doesn't ever want to see me again. Her parents continue to write me cards and letters and to tell me they accept me as I am.

Can I remain close with Betsy's parents and see them on the sly when I visit home? I know it sounds weird, but they were like a second family to me. My boyfriend says I gave all that up when I gave up Betsy. Is that true, Ms. Behavior? Does becoming gay mean you have to wipe away ALL the comforts of the past?

—MEMBER OF THE FAMILY

### Dear Member of the Family:

Being gay does not mean you have to wipe away all the comforts of your past. It just means you have to wear silly costumes, hold your wrist limply, and talk with a lisp — but only during a chance encounter with Betsy.

When you refer to seeing Betsy's parents "on the sly," from whom are you hiding it? If you mean Betsy, Ms. Behavior sees no problem with your choice. You're not obligated to please her anymore. (In fact, it's unlikely you ever did, isn't it?)

You do, however, have an obligation to be truthful with your boyfriend about your feelings for Betsy's family. He doesn't have to like your relationship with them and he doesn't have to visit them with you, but you shouldn't hide from him your intention to see them. □

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The ants are getting back from a hard workday, and they are coming home to rest.  
Les fourmis reviennent d'une dure journée de travail pour se reposer à la maison.



Let's f---!  
Fourrons!



A little ant is getting home late... poor little thing! Huff... huff...  
Une petite fourmi accuse du retard... pauvre petite! Pfoof... pfouf...



What do you mean, poor little thing? I was f---ing the grasshopper!  
Pauvre petite? Je fourrais la sauterelle!

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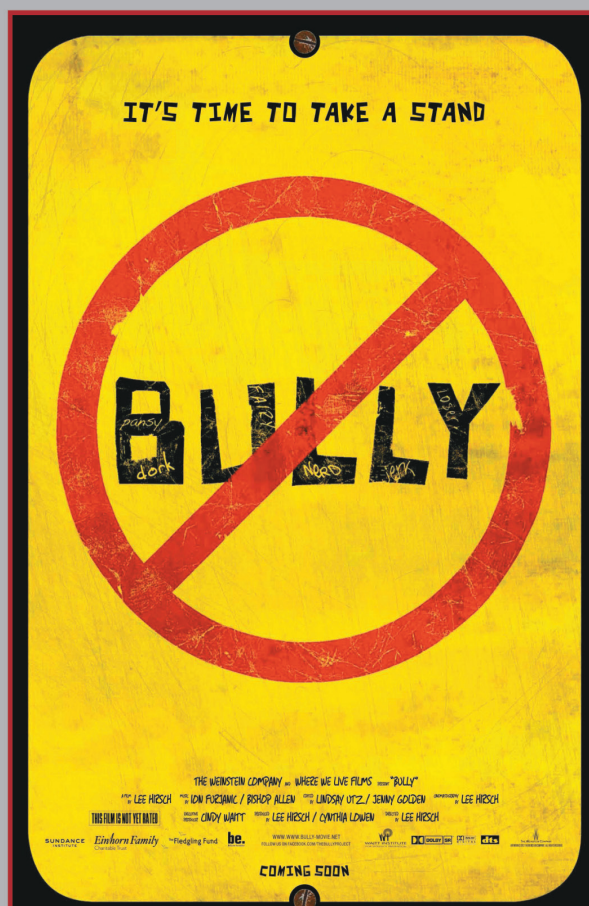


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## COMING SOON



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# The Romantics

THEY SAY that those who look for happiness will find it. They say that we should pursue our dreams, and forego things that make life miserable.

There are two exceptions to this rule: when our happiness infringes upon or dismisses the happiness of others, and when our chase forces us to risk our basic needs.

There are those who heed this rule—the passionate, sometimes selfish, among us. And there are those who cling to one of its exceptions—people who range from the selfless to the material-consumed.

We find happiness when we're willing to work for it, and we shouldn't find it if it costs other people their happiness. Sounds good to me.

But in this philosophy there is a paradox that tortures a group of its most inspired members...

The Romantics.

The philosophy of happiness—that we will find it if we look for it—contradicts another cliché: that we shouldn't look for love. That love will find us. If we look for it, we will trick ourselves into believing we've found it, and we'll "settle."

For the Romantic, settling is impossible. The Romantic lives a volatile life, often brimming as much with insecurity and disappointment as it is with hope and wonder. "Settling" connotes mediocrity, and there can be no mediocre romantic.

So the paradox tortures the Romantic: if love will make me happy, and I am supposed to look for what makes me happy, why am I not supposed to look for love? As a self-proclaimed, sappy romantic, I believe I have our answer: **Romantics are masochists.** We thrive on torment and martyrdom as much as intimacy and ecstasy, and we would have it no other way.

First things first. What is a Romantic? I define myself to be someone who wants desperately to find the love of his life—someone who will do nearly anything to find the mythical, perfect "him." And right there in my definition of who I am we find the Romantic's fatal flaw: the incessant, impossible pursuit of perfection, of the never-ending honeymoon.

I'm not talking about perfection in intimacy. I'm not even talking about the expectation that everything must be "romantic" in a romantic relationship. No, no. Flowers and candy, rose petals and teddy bears—those things aren't romantic. Those things are for normal people who sometimes buy tokens of romance.

I'm talking about the more subtle things like, will he hold me all night long, and what does it mean if he doesn't? What about the way he looked at that guy who just walked by? He obviously thought the guy was attractive—what qualities does he have that I don't?

These questions multiply by the thousands in the Romantic's mind, and if he's

good at faking, he'll pretend such things don't bother him because he knows these thoughts are absurd—impossible to meet at the Romantic's satisfaction.

This sounds like the Romantic is sappy or blind to reality—a victim of naivete, maybe. But he is not. He, of all people, has probably seen the most heartbreak. Instead of becoming disillusioned by tragedy as some people become, he over-inflates his broken heart with the very thing that shattered when it fell: hope. He falls down and stands up time and time again, believing each time to be his Happily Ever After. The Romantic thrives on ferocity. On intense passion and tragedy. On agony and ecstasy. He is romantic because his happiness is fragile, and whether he knows it or not, that's what turns him on. The Romantic treasures life because he is the masochist who not only risks, but who dares, to be heartbroken so that he may savor ecstasy a million times more. It's a theory in juxtaposition: how can we know bliss if we haven't known heartbreak?

And that's why Romantics are often single, waiting for love instead of pursuing it (I fall into this category). Or serial monogamists, looking for happiness instead of waiting for love.

Is it a fault to be a Romantic? Probably only to those who aren't—to the normals. I'm happy to be a Romantic.

Well, as happy as a Romantic can be. □



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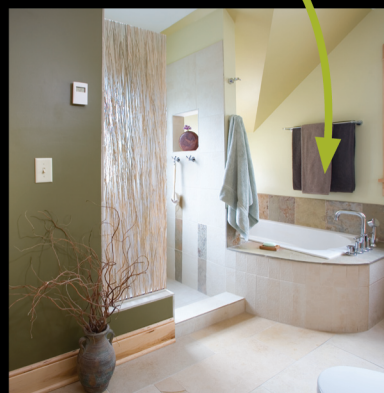
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